

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing March 2019 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

2 WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer deaths in the
3 United States among men and women combined, but there is currently no cure; and

4 WHEREAS, one in twenty men and one in twenty-four women will be diagnosed
5 with colorectal cancer in their lifetimes; and

6 WHEREAS, there are now more than one million survivors of colorectal cancer in
7 the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, over 2,700 Kentuckians are diagnosed annually with colorectal cancer;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, as screening rates have risen by 50 percent, incidence rates and
11 mortality rates have declined dramatically, which means that every year almost 400
12 Kentuckians who would have gotten colorectal cancer no longer get the disease; and

13 WHEREAS, between 1999 and 2016, screening rates rose from 35 percent to 70
14 percent, improving more than any other state in the country and moving the state from a
15 ranking of 49th to 17th; and

16 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Colon Cancer Screening Program has assisted hundreds
17 of individuals without insurance to obtain access to a colorectal screening; and

18 WHEREAS, the national goal established by the National Colorectal Cancer
19 Roundtable is 80 percent of Americans ages 50 and older be screened in every
20 community; and

21 WHEREAS, one of Kentucky's 15 Area Development Districts has reached the 80
22 percent goal; and

23 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Cancer Consortium was named the "2019 80% by 2018
24 National Achievement Award Honoree" by the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable
25 for its public awareness, advocacy, and provider education efforts; and

26 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Cancer Consortium is Kentucky's statewide
27 comprehensive cancer control coalition composed of more than 70 organizations and 450

1 partners committed to reducing cancer in the state; and

2 WHEREAS, if the majority of people in the United States age 50 or older were
3 screened regularly for colorectal cancer, one-half of all cases could be prevented entirely;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, public knowledge of the signs and symptoms of colorectal cancer is
6 critical for all people, of all ages, to reduce the incidence and mortality from the disease;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, observing a Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month during the month of
9 March provides a special opportunity to offer education on the importance of early
10 detection and screening;

11 NOW, THEREFORE,

12 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
13 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

14 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Kentucky
15 recognizes the month of March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, and urges that
16 the citizens of this Commonwealth be appropriately screened for colorectal cancer.

17 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
18 copy of this Resolution to Representative Melinda Gibbons Prunty.